

# Bridgeport Evening Harmer

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BRIDGEPORT, CONN., WEDNESDAY, JAN. 13, 1915

PRICE TWO CENTS

## SENATE AND HOUSE RUSH BILL TO ELIMINATE CIVIL SERVICE LAW IN STATE

Every Republican In Senate, Save One, Votes to Speed Spoils Amendment On Its Way—Democrats Protest In Vain.

Senator Bishop Only Republican to Cast Ballot to Sustain Present Civil Service System—Vote Is 29 to 6.

(By Special Staff Correspondent.)  
Hartford, Jan. 13.—The Republican majority in the General Assembly lost no time today in getting after the civil service law, which, under the opinion of Attorney General Hittman, given yesterday, protects several democrats who are holding jobs in Hartford.

In the senate today Senator Isbell of New Haven introduced a resolution radically amending the law, so that its protective features would be removed, and would allow of the appointment of republicans in the offices now held by democrats at the capital.

Senator Isbell in introducing the resolution asked for the suspension of the rules and immediate transmission of the resolution to the house for consideration by the judiciary committee.

Senator Purcell, of Hartford, (Dem.), objected to the procedure, saying that the senate should proceed in a safe, sane and conservative manner. Senator Isbell's resolution he maintained was designed to supersede the present law. Senator Isbell replied, saying that precipitate action was not desired, but that there were several features of the present civil service laws which demanded attention. He claimed that he had been rushed through at his last session and did not receive the attention that should have been given his many details.

Senator Bree, (Dem.) of New Haven, came out point blank and said that the resolution of Senator Isbell was designed solely for the purpose of selling the senate to the spoils and perpetuating it at the capital. He further denied that the present law had been rushed through as stated and furthermore that it had been in good working order for years.

Senator Purcell again spoke, citing the dates of the hearings on the civil service law at his last session, saying that Senator Isbell's contention that it was rushed through was untenable. The resolution was then read in full.

The law, if amended will become effective six months hence. The chief amendment offered is one that will exempt from the law the state departments and the appointees of officers elected to state offices.

The changes would provide that all officers elected by popular vote, all officers appointed by the governor and their appointees and employees; all members of the general assembly and their appointees and employees; all appointees or employees of the secretary of state, state treasurer and comptroller, and all attendants upon the general assembly shall be exempted from the law.

By a party vote of 29 to 6 the resolution was sent to the house. Senator Bishop voted with the Democrats.

The proposed amendments were drawn up as the result of a Republican caucus. There has been some opinion in favor of a bill to repeal the act or to suspend the operation of the law. However, it was decided, according to Republican leaders, to have amendments submitted to the judiciary committee for consideration with opportunity for a hearing on the merits of the changes. The Republicans claim that when the law was passed they had no thought that its effect would be so sweeping.

Senator Purcell urged a roll call on the suspension of the rules and transmission immediately to the house, which would give a favorable vote of 29 to 6. The five democrats voting nay were Purcell, Whitney, Grady, Bree and Hurley, who were aided by one Republican, Hubert Bishop of New York.

The resolution was immediately transmitted to the house where it was referred to the judiciary committee. Gov. Holcomb to-day sent in his first communication to the senate, making a number of appointments. The committees include the following:

To be directors of the Connecticut Reformatory each for a portion of his term ending July 1, 1917, Charles Hopkins Clark, of Hartford; John P. Elton, of Waterbury and Morris W. Seymour, of Bridgeport; to be directors for four years from July 1, 1916, L. P. Waldo Marvin, of Hartford, and Louise H. Merritt, of Stamford.

To be judge of the common pleas court at New Haven for four years from Sept. 1, 1916, Ernest L. Simpson; to be judge of the common pleas court at Hartford, for four years, from May 1916, Edward L. Smith.

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## ROME SHAKES IN TERRIFIC EARTHQUAKE

Rome, Jan. 13.—A terrific earthquake, stronger ever felt in Rome, occurred early today. It lasted several seconds and caused a serious panic, people everywhere rushing from their houses in terror. Many buildings were damaged by the shock.

So far as could be learned one hour after the quake no lives were lost. It was not possible to reach a definite idea of the degree of the damage suffered by the city.

There was confusion throughout the whole of Rome. In some cases it amounted to terror bordering on panic. The telephone was reported to be in great numbers of people at virtually the same time in endeavors to ascertain the safety of relatives and friends, and then to learn the extent of the damage to the city. The telephone girls did their best to meet the emergency. A system of gathering and giving information was hurriedly inaugurated.

It was learned early in the day that among the old buildings damaged was the Palazzo Chigi as well as the famous column of Marcus Aurelius.

The last serious earthquake in the Rome district occurred July 19, 1894. Rome, Frascati, Marino and other towns on the Alban Hills felt it and many buildings were damaged but there was no loss of life. Further south in Italy and in Sicily, however, earthquakes are frequent and very severe.

## NO MONEY YET FOR ADDITION TO COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The county commissioners today denied the story published in a morning paper that ground would be broken for the long contemplated addition to the county courthouse. The commissioners said they had no appropriation yet for the new building and could do nothing until the funds were available.

It is hoped that the General Assembly, now in session, will see its way clear to authorize the appropriation so that there will not be any more delay in starting the work. Progress in the legislature is apt to be slow, however, and for that reason the commissioners are taking no steps at present to break ground for the new building.

Bids for the sale of the Hall home will be received by the commissioners until tomorrow. This building occupies land on which the courthouse addition will be erected and it is necessary to have the old structure razed before anything else can be started.

## CHANGES BEGIN IN LOCAL POST OFFICE

F. T. Langhammer, formerly on the stamp window of the local post office is now located in the cashier's office. Miss Bertha Walker formerly in the cashier's office is now on stamps, and Al Jaynes has been placed in supervision of lock boxes.

While officials at the post office refused to discuss the changes, which were claimed to be merely administrative, it is the belief of postal employees that this is but the beginning of one of the most general shifts that the department has seen in many years.

## GIRL EXONERATES MECHANIC LOVER OF ABDUCTION CHARGE

Explaining that her mother had ordered her from the home shortly before she disappeared Sunday night, and that she had gone to New Haven where she had secured a furnished room until her marriage to Louis Delibrio, 265 East Main street, could be arranged; 17-year-old Mary Butner, 194 East Main street, for whom the police have been searching, appeared at police headquarters this afternoon.

Delibrio was arraigned before Judge Coughlin in the city court today charged with abduction, she says, knew nothing about her leaving home or her whereabouts. She intended to communicate with him and see if their contemplated marriage could be arranged. She intended to keep her whereabouts a secret but read in the papers of the plight of her lover.

Coughlin in the city court today charged with abduction. The hearing was continued until Saturday and bonds reduced from \$2,500 to \$1,500. Delibrio was arraigned before Judge E. Morgan, who said that he had been retained by officials of the Automatic Machine Co., where Delibrio is employed and highly thought of. His client, he said, is a young man of excellent habits and is paying for several building lots out of his earnings.

Mary was taken before Captain Arnold and reprimanded for the anxiety she has caused her parents. Her parents have been notified. She is held awaiting their arrival.

## PURITAN BREAKS ADRIFT, SINKS OTHER VESSELS

Steamer's Mooring Lines Part and She Crushes Or Sinks Five Boats

HIGHEST TIDE HERE IN OVER 40 YEARS

Heavy Weather Forces the Plymouth Into New London to Land Passengers

Stonington, Ct., Jan. 13.—The steamer Puritan, of the New England Navigation Company, which has been laid up here for about six months, broke away from her dock during the heavy blow on Long Island Sound last night and drifted across the slip, crushing or sinking five fishing boats. No one was injured. Three hawseas parted at the bow, allowing the Puritan to swing about. She is now held by a single stern line. A watchman remained on board.

The steamer Nomad, the largest of the fishing boats caught by the Puritan, was crushed. The Nomad carried a crew of 12 but none of them was on board at the time. Other vessels sunk were the Francis Bell, owned by Grover Eldridge, of Stonington; the Cornelius J., owned by Captain Abraham Jenks, of this place and the other boats, the names of which are not known, one of them being owned by Carpenter Brothers, of Newport, R. I.

Plymouth Seeks Shelter.

New London, Jan. 13.—On account of the storm the steamer Plymouth made this harbor about 3:30 this morning and landed her passengers who were sent east on a special train. About 10:30 the Plymouth started down the harbor with the evident intention of continuing her trip.

During the night the schooner Ruth, as mail craft which has been in coaling, was driven ashore at Osprey Beach. As far as known nobody was on the craft when she went ashore. She is owned by Ricardo R. Morgan of this city.

Wild Night on Sound.

It was a wild night on the Sound from shortly after 6 o'clock last evening and the storm continued until today. With an easterly wind blowing, high seas were kicked up, but owing to storm signals sent out from Washington and posted in this city at an early time yesterday afternoon by Park keeper Kaesner, who telephoned the message to all local shipping offices it is not believed that any local shipping was caught in the sea.

The only steamers to arrive or leave this port were the Naugatuck which got through to Bridgeport before the storm broke yesterday, the steamer Seaboard, of the Merchants' line, which arrived in this city at noon today after buffeting the waves for many hours, and the government light-house tender "Mistake," which ran for port and anchored with within the breakwater over night.

The tide today was the highest in about 43 years according to old watermen. It was so high at 9 o'clock this morning, when full that Bridge tender Joe Schelling, keeper of the Stratford avenue bridge, did not dare to open that structure for vessels. It rose to a point where ripples of water played across the flooring of the bridge, and the docks of the Bridgeport Towing company, and on the Connecticut company's flats just east of the railroad station the water was so high that it rose over the trucks of cars stored there and drove into the company's offices who were unable to move the cars away.

Though it was reported that the Raccoon boat, "Standard," Capt. Rollins, had arrived in port early this morning, reporting a hard passage from Norway and collision with some unknown vessel, the rumor could not be confirmed at the local offices this morning where it was said the captain did not come on shore, having merely been blown into this port for safety. The "Standard" is one of the largest boats of the company and is now believed to be cruising in the Sound. She left at an early hour.

Inquiry at the Stratford avenue bridge today showed that the water was so high as to inundate part of the mechanism by which the bridge was operated. Though small harbor crafts desired to get through they were signalled to back up and make fast, because it was feared that the electrical bridge operating devices might become short circuited and prevent the bridge being closed again.

It was reported that the U. S. steamer "Mistake" had put into port because she had been disabled were denied in shipping circles today where it is said that she has begun work on the Black Rock and Bridgeport Reef lights. A new roof over the reflectors has already been placed on the Bridgeport light, while improvements and repairs are being made at Black Rock and increase in the power of the light on Penfield Reef will result from work of this boat at that point.

The steamer Naugatuck, which makes regular trips from this city to New York, arrived yesterday afternoon.

The steamer Naugatuck, which left for New York this morning, arrived in New York at 3:30 a. m. Though the passage was rough nothing unusual was reported on the voyage.

THE WEATHER.  
Cloudy tonight; Thursday fair, north to northwest gales, diminishing by Thursday morning.

## COUNTY CAUCUS IN SESSION TO GET NOMINEES

Brophy, Ballard and Crawford Likely to Be the New County Commission

(By Staff Correspondent.)  
Hartford, Jan. 13.—The Fairfield county senators and representatives will meet this afternoon in caucus to name a county committee which will call a meeting for the purpose of selecting nominees for the county commission. The meeting for the nomination will probably be held early next week. Indications today are that the county commissioners will be Frank E. Ballard of Bridgeport, John Brophy of Ridgefield and Henry Crawford of Greenwich.

There seems to be no opposition to Ballard's candidacy and F. E. Lyon of Norwalk is the only aspirant in opposition to Crawford. Crawford is expected to be elected.

There are three candidates at present looking for the berth now occupied by Commissioner Brophy, but it is expected that he will have the majority—at least on a second ballot. The candidates opposed are Hatch of New Fairfield, Barnes of Redding and Hart of Bethel.

Although it was reported today that J. Harry Crossley, well known insurance agent and real estate man, was back of the movement to retain Judge Wilder and that Mr. Crossley would be elected president of the club which is to be organized tonight, Mr. Crossley refused to discuss the subject today. Judge Wilder also refused to say anything concerning his chances or his ambitions regarding the city court.

At the present time it is conceded in Republican political circles that Attorney Frederick A. Bartlett, president pro tem. of the state senate, will be made judge of the city court. There are candidates for every other office in the city.

At present the lineup seems to be Bartlett for judge, Garlick, the present assistant clerk, for deputy judge; Deane, the present prosecuting attorney; Robert H. Gould for assistant prosecuting attorney; Hugh J. Lavery for clerk, and either Abe S. Gelding or Theodore B. Steiber for assistant clerk.

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## ORGANIZE CLUB TO SAVE WILDER FOR CITY COURT

Plan to Put Over Bartlett for Judge Alarms Friends of Present Incumbent

MEETING AT G. O. P. CLUB ROOMS TONIGHT

J. H. Crossley Fosters Movement to Thwart Machine's Plans to Oust Wilder

An effort to retain Frank L. Wilder as deputy judge of the city court and John Packer Gray as assistant prosecuting attorney is reflected in the plan of the First district Republicans who have called a meeting to organize a district club this evening at Republican headquarters in Fairfield avenue.

The organization while ostensibly reviving the support of the town committee, is but a drive to help Deputy Judge Wilder to retain his place. Assistant Prosecutor Gray has been brought into the movement in the hope that his efforts to retain his position will help Judge Wilder.

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## TWO GERMAN SUBMARINES SUNK OFF DOVER; HOSTILE AIRCRAFT FLY IN CHANNEL

Summary OF THE War News

The assaults of the allies against selected positions in the German line, gaining ground for them at several points during the last week, have led to German counter-attacks in force and the heaviest infantry fighting for some time. Today's official communication from Berlin and Paris indicate that the Germans, having brought large bodies of troops into play, have checked the advance of the allies and have themselves made important gains.

Attacks near the canal of La Bassée, it is said, were defeated while the allies were compelled by German artillery fire to evacuate trenches near the Belgian coast in the neighborhood of Nieuport.

The French statement admits that the allies were driven back near Solissons, being compelled to yield ground to the Germans. The Germans, it is said, have gained possession of two of their positions, capturing 1,700 prisoners and several guns.

The heaviest fighting occurred yesterday to the east of Solissons. The Germans state that they decisively repulsed the allies and gained possession of two of their positions, capturing 1,700 prisoners and several guns.

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Coast Batteries Reported to Have Fired On German Divers—Airships Sighted at Many Points Along the Coast.

Vigorous Fighting Within 60 Miles of Paris—Both Armies Suffer In Bitter Winter Weather at Eastern Frontier.

Dover, Jan. 13.—Two German submarines were to-day fired upon and sunk by the coast batteries off Dover, according to persistent rumors current in the city.

The presence of hostile airships over the English Channel during last night has been reported to-day from various points on the coast.

These reports, however, have as yet not been confirmed.

Fighting In Caucasus.  
London, Jan. 13.—Vigorous fighting at Kara-Urgan, between Sark Kramish and the frontier of the Caucasus, and the attempts of the Germans to check the advance of the allies in France northeast of Solissons and near Perthes were the principal points today where desperate fighting is reported raging. The latest Petrograd official communication says that the fighting at Kara-Urgan is turning in the Russian favor but both armies are fighting with handicaps of deep snow and bitter cold.

Private Petrograd despatches claim that the Turks show no signs of weakening.

The Germans again stormed "Spur 132" northeast of Solissons in what Paris describes as an "important attack." The report was still unknown this morning. The French took the hill only last Saturday and since then the Germans have made a determined effort to carry it by a counter attack.

Similar violent fighting is reported as progressing about 50 miles farther east, near Perthes, where the Germans by a counter attack succeeded in breaking through and establishing themselves behind the French advanced position north of Beaune-la-Martin. The fighting is continuing all night but the outcome is not known this morning. The Germans apparently are making great efforts, not only to hold what they have recovered, but also to drive the French further back as an advance on the part of the latter would threaten their communications to the north.

Telegrams from Cairo revive the reports of a German-Turkish invasion of Egypt.

Await Rumania's Entry.  
The date of the much discussed entry of Italy and Rumania into the war has not yet been officially set. Despatches from Sofia, however, indicate that Rumania plans to start her campaign through Transylvania in February.

TABRIZ OCCUPIED.  
London, Jan. 13.—The Reuter Telegram Co. has received from its correspondent from Petrograd saying that an advance detachment of the Turkish army has occupied the Persian city of Tabriz.

Tabriz is in northwestern Persia and after Tehran, the largest city in the country. It is 100 miles to the east of the Turkish frontier.

LATE WAR NEWS.  
Berlin, Jan. 13.—The correspondent of the Cologne Gazette at Sofia, Bulgaria, declares that the leading circles in Bulgaria do not share in the belief that there is to be an immediate extension of the war in the Balkans. All decisions, it is stated, depend on the results of the great battles now progressing.

Amsterdam, Jan. 13.—All ordinary passenger traffic was stopped today over most of the railroads of Germany until January 18. This measure was taken to expedite the movement of troops and munitions of war to which traffic the railroads will be given over almost entirely.

New York, Jan. 13.—Among the passengers on the liner Maestral sailing to-day for Southampton are Surgeon General Suzuki, Dr. T. Oshima, and twenty-one nurses, comprising the Japanese Red Cross unit, signed to war duty in England. The unit will be stationed at Nutley Hospital, Southampton.

POPE BENEDICT CALLS CONSISTORY.  
Rome, Jan. 13.—It was announced at the Vatican to-day that Pope Benedict had decided to hold a consistory on Feb. 22.

Five of the smaller silk firms in Paterson, N. J., have been forced into bankruptcy (filing the past three weeks because of conditions arising from the European war).

Fire in the Finlay Building, Salem, N. J., caused a loss of \$30,000.

GERMAN

Berlin, Jan. 13.—German victories in several engagements on the western front are announced in today's statement from the war office. It is said

(Continued on Page 7.)